



SECURE & PREPARED

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April 10-16 is National Volunteer Week

Volunteers in Iowa are key to disaster response and recovery. April 10–16 is National Volunteer Week. Take time out during this week to encourage others to sign up to be a pre-registered disaster volunteer at www.volunteeriowa.org/volunteer/disasters.aspx.

Just like all elements of disasters, volunteers begin at the local level. Citizen Corps is a great way to encourage citizens to get a basic level of training and preparedness at the local level. Check out www.citizen corps.gov for more information. Ω



New Mitigation Projects Gain Approval

Hazard mitigation projects are very important when it comes to reducing or preventing damage from future disasters. Federal funding for hazard mitigation projects is made available after each Presidential Disaster Declaration through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). As part of the HMGP in Iowa, 75 percent of eligible project costs is paid by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 10 percent is paid by the state (applicant), and the remaining 15 percent is paid by the sub-applicant (local governments/communities, tribal governments, and certain eligible private non-profits).



There are currently 10 “open” disasters in Iowa, the earliest being a severe winter storm that took place in late February/early March of 2007. (An open disaster is one where projects relating to the disaster are still in progress.) Of the 320 hazard mitigation projects that have been submitted to FEMA for approval as a result of all of these disasters, 275 have been awarded funding in total of more than \$241 million, leaving 45 projects worth more than \$191 million that have been submitted but yet to be approved. Additionally, there are 117 projects in development worth more than \$168 million that have not yet been submitted to FEMA for approval.

However, there are four disasters where the application due date has yet to occur:

Disaster:	Declaration Date:	Application Deadline to HSEMD:
DR-1877	Feb. 25, 2010	April 24, 2011
DR-1880	March 2, 2010	July 29, 2011
DR-1928	July 27, 2010	Sept. 27, 2011
DR-1930	July 29, 2010	Sept. 28, 2011

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Multi-State Partnership Holds Spring Workshop



The Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture strives to encourage collaboration between states, federal partners and state agency associations. The

Partnership has produced tools that have assisted states in addressing many of the challenges involved in securing the agriculture sector.

Iowa was represented at the spring planning workshop in Detroit, Mich., by two regional veterinarians and the assistant state veterinarian from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, along with Mark Shearer and Susan Dixon from HSEMD. The first part of the meeting included:

- Counterfeiting and Food Product Fraud
- Global Foot and Mouth Disease Issues/Lessons Learned
- FMD Planning: How Ready Are We?
- Multi-State Implementation of a High-Consequence Event

Insights regarding food and agriculture security garnered from conversations with local county emergency managers added value to each discussion, Dixon said.

Attendees at the workshop also received the latest information aimed at enhancing their risk and crisis communication skills. Local emergency managers are encouraged to take advantage of any risk communication opportunities in the future.

Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse Program

The goal of the Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse (HDER) Program is to enhance the domestic preparedness capabilities of emergency responder agencies, nationwide, by providing surplus radiological and emergency responder equipment, instrumentation and other supplies, as well as technical support. Responder agencies across the nation have access to a substantial inventory of personal protective equipment, detection equipment, search and rescue equipment, and other items that are no longer needed by the federal government. The equipment is rehabilitated and provided at no cost to the recipient. In partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Energy has redeployed over 47,000 items since the program's inception.

Registration at <http://hder.oro.doe.gov/>, the official HDER website, initiates the application process. Approved registrants from state, region/district, county/local,



and other emergency responder agencies may order inventory items as frequently as every month not to exceed six orders per calendar year. Orders are assessed for reasonable application before processing. Conducted on a "first come, first served" basis, processing is contingent on the availability of items ordered. Approved orders are assembled and sent via freight or FedEx to the requesting agency.

First responder and agencies with a homeland security/emergency management role are encouraged to register. To date, 21 local entities have completed registration. Should you have additional questions, please contact Frank Klier at frank.klier@iowa.gov.

The Partnership is a collaborative forum of state departments of agriculture and animal health, veterinarian's offices, homeland security advisors, and emergency management divisions from 14 states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Ω

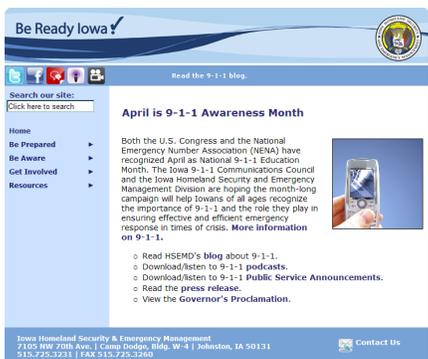


Members of the Partnership practice at a mock press conference at their spring planning workshop. HSEMD's Mark Shearer is pictured at left.

BeReadyIowa Website Gets Makeover

If you've visited www.BeReadyIowa.org lately, you may have noticed that the site has been given a facelift! The new citizen preparedness site has been redesigned so that it is similar in style and functionality to the HSEMD website.

The site has also been updated with new content, including several pages about the hazards of Iowa, podcasts and public service announcements. Look for additional changes in the months ahead! Ω



For the latest news from HSEMD...



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Great Central U.S. ShakeOut

The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut is a drill designed to educate the public about how to prepare for a large earthquake. It will be the largest earthquake drill ever in the central U.S. At 10:15 a.m. on April 28, you can participate, too! While the likelihood of an earthquake striking Iowa is low, the threat exists nonetheless, and it's always a good idea to have a basic understanding of what you need to do should an earthquake occur. Visit www.BeReadyIowa.org for details on earthquake preparedness and a link to the ShakeOut website. Ω



Mary Stephens Retires from HSEMD



Secretary Mary Stephens retired last week after nearly eight years of service at HSEMD. Co-workers held a retirement party for her on her last day, March 31. Several family members, current and former co-workers stopped by to help celebrate, and Administrator J. Derek Hill (above, with Mary) presented her with a plaque as part of the festivities.

Mary plans to spend more time with her family and her grandchildren, in particular, and says she won't miss the more than hour-long commute (each way) to work!

Good luck, Mary! We'll miss you. Ω



Grants: Monitoring vs. Auditing

Auditing and monitoring are two activities that are similar but if the terms are used synonymously, then inaccurate assumptions can be made about what occurs during each activity.

HSEMD's responsibility as the state administrative agency under FEMA preparedness grant programs is for monitoring award activities, including sub-awards, to provide reasonable assurance that the federal award is administered in compliance with the grant terms and conditions (44 CFR Part 13.40 (a)). Some of those responsibilities include the accounting of receipts and expenditures, cash management, maintaining adequate financial records and equipment tracking, and refunding expenditures disallowed by audits. Each sub-grantee will be monitored for programmatic and financial compliance.

Auditing is a detailed inspection of accounting procedures and records by a trained accountant or Certified Public Accountant. Auditing is independent and objective. It is an activity that has a defined meaning and utilizes a specific set of standards to provide an assessment of a system's internal controls. In this way, it distinguishes itself from monitoring.

Monitoring is the one activity within the grant life cycle that occurs continuously during the course of a federal award: pre-award, award, post-award, close-out, and over the duration of the disposition of files and equipment. However, monitoring is a less formal process depending on the nature of the activity. Monitoring

is usually conducted by internal staff and involves ongoing checking and measuring. Monitoring may trigger the need for an audit, but that is not the intended goal. In a sense, monitoring is a way to avoid an audit.



The output of monitoring is not only a documented field report and a corrective action plan if necessary, but also to ensure that grant funds are being obligated and expended in accordance with U.S. Department of Homeland Security and FEMA guidelines. The outcome and overarching goal is to provide a comprehensive picture of how homeland security and emergency management capabilities are increasing statewide. Monitoring will also allow HSEMD to ensure it is providing its resources and support to local and state agencies in an efficient and effective manner. HSEMD utilizes monitoring tools and processes to verify that controls that

have been implemented are working on a routine basis and that the appropriate risks are being identified and addressed.

HSEMD monitoring is completed with two methods: office-based and on-site. The majority of monitoring activities occur utilizing office-based monitoring. This type of activity consists of a review of local and state grant files to ensure that all documentation is complete and up-to-date, and that any apparent problems are addressed both financially and programmatically. Any challenges



encountered usually are addressed via file review and phone/email contact. An on-site review consists of the same but is a more detailed analysis of the financial and programmatic aspects of the grant funded projects. For further information regarding monitoring, please contact **Mike Raes** at **515-725-3215** or mike.raes@iowa.gov. Ω

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HSEMD Mission

Lead, coordinate, and support homeland security and emergency management functions in order to establish sustainable communities and ensure economic opportunities for Iowa and its citizens.

We're on the Web!

www.iowahomelandsecurity.org

New Mitigation Projects Gain Approval

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The following are the most recent projects that have been approved and will receive HMGP funding to complete. HSEMD is the grant applicant:

Sub-applicant: Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative

Award Amount: \$27,683,310

Award Date: March 23, 2011

Funding from DR-1763

A total of 151.14 miles of electrical transmission lines and poles in 10 counties (Cherokee, Crawford, Harrison, Monona, O'Brien, Plymouth, Pottawattamie, Shelby, Sioux and Woodbury) will be retrofitted to better withstand the effects of ice and wind increasing the reliability of electric service to Iowans. The project will help protect the services to an estimated 47,750 people, 20,960 residential and commercial properties, 16 public properties and 78 critical facilities. The project will strengthen the overhead line by upgrading the conductor size, shortening span lengths and installing larger poles to better withstand the adverse weather effects.

Sub-applicant: Southwest Iowa Rural Electrical Cooperative

Award Amount: \$3,856,410

Award Date: March 23, 2011

Funding from DR-1763

A total of 41.8 miles of electrical distribution lines and poles in seven counties (Adams, Decatur, Montgomery, Page, Ringgold, Taylor and Union) will be retrofitted to mitigate the loss of electrical service to Iowans caused by ice and wind storms. This project will help protect the service to an estimated 4,595 people and 1,838 residential properties, and will strengthen the overhead line by upgrading the conductor size, shortening span lengths and installing larger poles to better withstand the adverse weather effects.

Sub-applicant: Woodbury County Conservation Board

Award Amount: \$324,828

Award Date: March 11, 2011

Funding from DR-1877

As campers are very vulnerable to hazardous weather conditions, the Woodbury County Conservation Board will construct a community safe room in Brown's Lake-Bigelow Park. The safe room will provide near absolute life protection against 250 mph winds for 178 campers and other park users during severe wind and tornado events. The safe room is designed as a bath house and is a new addition to the campground area.

Sub-applicant: Shenandoah Community School District (Page County)

Award Amount: \$509,916

Award Date: March 21, 2011

Funding from DR-1880

The Shenandoah Community School District will construct a multi-functional tornado safe room/wrestling room to provide a safe place for 763 students, staff, and school visitors to use during severe wind and tornado events. The safe room will provide near absolute protection against 250 mph winds. Ω